

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 194371  
ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /010 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PHL:JSARTORIUS/KBLEAKLEY:CMD  
APPROVED BY EA/PHL:JSARTORIUS  
INR/REA/SA:JWIANT (INFO COPY)

-----062075 170627Z /15

R 162100Z AUG 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 194371

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR EA ONLY, MANILA POUCH CEBU

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CFED, MARR, RP

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT - PHILIPPINES

TO: EA - MR. HOLBROOKE

FROM: EA/PHL - JAMES SARTORIUS

1. CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY ON VA BENEFITS (LIMITED  
OFFICIAL USE)

DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITA-  
TION FROM SENATOR PROXMIRE'S APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
ON INDEPENDENT AGENCIES TO TESTIFY ON AUGUST 31 ON THE  
SUBJECT OF U.S. VETERANS BENEFITS IN THE PHILIPPINES. WE  
UNDERSTAND THAT THE HEARINGS WILL FOCUS ON TWO GAO REPORTS.  
THE FIRST, A MAY 20 STUDY ON "POTENTIAL FOR REDUCING U.S.  
FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND ENDING VA INVOLVEMENT IN MEDICAL  
PROGRAMS FOR FILIPINO VETERANS" HAS ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED.  
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THE SECOND, COVERING OTHER EXTENSIVE VETERAN BENEFITS, IS  
IN THE FINAL STAGES OF PREPARATION AND WILL REPORTEDLY  
MAKE A STRONG CASE FOR REDUCTION OF BENEFITS ON THE BASIS  
OF "ABUSES" IN THE PHILIPPINE PROGRAM. GAO HAS PROMISED TO  
GIVE EA/PHL A COPY ON AUGUST 17, THOUGH IT WILL NOT IN-  
CLUDE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH ARE STILL BEING REVIEWED WITHIN  
GAO. CONSIDERING THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE IN THE

PHILIPPINES, WE WILL CONSULT CLOSELY WITH EMBASSY MANILA ABOUT HOW BEST TO RESPOND TO BOTH GAO REPORTS.

2. YOUNG PHILIPPINE OFFICER INTEREST IN BASE NEGOTIATIONS  
(CONFIDENTIAL)

THREE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE LT.COLS--CIRIACO RECONQUISTA, ANDRESS SAMSON AND TOMAS GOJO--VISITED EA/PHL THIS WEEK AS PART OF THEIR INDOCTRINATION PROGRAM FOR THE US AIR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE. THE VISIT WAS NOTABLE FOR THE TOTAL CONCENTRATION OF THESE YOUNG OFFICERS ON THE QUESTION OF BASE NEGOTIATIONS AND THEIR OBVIOUS IMPATIENCE WITH PROGRESS TOWARD A NEW AGREEMENT. THEY WERE WELL INFORMED ON THE ISSUES AND TOOK A HARDER LINE THAN HAD THE PHILIPPINE NEGOTIATING TEAM LAST YEAR, PARTICULARLY ON QUESTIONS OF ENHANCING BASE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMY, SUCH AS COMPENSATION, TAXES, CUSTOMS DUTIES, AND EMPLOYMENT.

3. NOTE EA ONLY CAPTION. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** CFED, MARR, RP  
**To:** EA POSTS  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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EO Systematic Review  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009